

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing method for printing an optically readable dot code on a printing medium by means of printing plates, said method comprising:

5           a first step of printing said code on said printing medium, using a first printing plate and a first ink; and

          a second step of forming a code coat covering said code on said printing medium by printing, using a  
10       second printing plate and a second ink having a property of not affecting the operation of reading said code.

          2. The method according to claim 1, wherein  
          said first ink has a property of absorbing light  
15       irradiating said code and coming from a lighting section of a reading device for optically reading said code; and

          said second ink has a property of reflecting light coming from said lighting section.

20       3. The method according to claim 2, wherein,  
          if light coming from said lighting section is red light,

          said first ink is anyone of black ink and cyan ink; and

25       said second ink is anyone of magenta ink and yellow ink.

          4. The method according to claim 1, wherein

said second ink has a property of being transparent relative to visible light.

5. A printed matter bearing an optically readable printed code, said printed matter comprising:

5       said code printed by using a first printing plate and a first ink; and

10       a code coat formed by printing to cover said code immediately after the operation of printing said code, using a second printing plate and a second ink having a property of not adversely affecting the operation of reading said code, said second printing plate and said second ink being different respectively from said first printing plate and said first ink.